

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A paper treating unit comprising:

a paper exhausting roller that delivers paper passed from a paper exhausting unit in a paper proceeding direction;

5 a paper loading table that loads the paper at a paper loading position;

a first paper aligning member that regulates the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction by sliding back and forth in the paper proceeding direction;

10 a second paper aligning member disposed upstream of the first paper aligning member in the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction;

15 a third paper aligning member disposed along the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in a width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction by sliding back and forth in the direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction; and

20 a position detecting unit that detects the position of the first paper aligning member, the second paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member;

wherein the first paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member are disposed independently of the paper loading table.

2. The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the first paper aligning member and the third
paper aligning member are disposed above the paper loading table.

5 3. The paper treating unit according to claim 1, further
comprising:

an upper face detecting unit that detects the uppermost
position of the paper loaded on the paper loading table; and
a table driving mechanism that moves up or down the paper
loading table depending on the uppermost position of the paper
detected by the upper face detecting unit.

4. The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the third paper aligning member includes a pair
15 of third paper aligning members separated from each other in
the perpendicular direction to the paper proceeding direction
to regulate the position of the paper in the perpendicular
direction.

20 5. The paper treating unit according to claim 1, further
comprising:

a first driving mechanism that drives the first paper
aligning member; and

25 a second driving mechanism that drives the third paper
aligning member independently of the first driving mechanism.

6. The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the first paper aligning member and the third
paper aligning member are slid once back and forth every time
5 the paper is exhausted from the paper exhausting unit.

7. The paper treating unit according to claim 4,
wherein the paper exhausting roller delivers the paper
in the paper proceeding direction while delivering the paper
10 in the perpendicular direction; and
one of the pair of third paper aligning members is stopped
and the other is slid back and forth in the perpendicular
direction.

15 8. The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the first paper aligning member is slid back and
forth between a first standby position apart by a predetermined
distance in the paper proceeding direction from the paper loading
position and a position around an end of the paper loading
20 position, immediately after the paper is loaded on the paper
loading table.

9. The paper treating unit according to claim 8,
wherein the first paper aligning member is slid back and
25 forth by a distance of 3mm or less from the first standby position.

10. The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the third paper aligning member is slid back and
forth between a second standby position apart by a predetermined
5 distance in the perpendicular direction from the paper loading
position and a position around an end of the paper loading
position, immediately after the paper is loaded on the paper
loading table.
- 10 11. The paper treating unit according to claim 1, further
comprising: an upper unit disposed above the paper loading table;
wherein the upper unit is provided with the first paper
aligning member, the third paper aligning member, the first
driving mechanism and the second driving mechanism.
- 15 12. The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the paper exhausting unit is provided for an image
forming apparatus; and
the paper treating unit is disposed adjacent to the image
20 forming apparatus.
13. An image forming apparatus system, comprising:
an image forming apparatus that forms an image on paper;
and
25 a paper treating unit;

wherein the paper treating unit includes:

a paper exhausting roller that delivers the paper passed from the image forming apparatus in a paper proceeding direction;

5 a paper loading table for loading the paper at a paper loading position;

a first paper aligning member that regulates the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction by sliding back and forth in the paper proceeding direction; a
10 second paper aligning member disposed upstream of the first paper aligning member in the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction;

a third paper aligning member disposed along the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in a width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction by sliding back and forth in the direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction; and

15 a position detecting unit that detects the position of the first paper aligning member, the second paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member; and

the first paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member are disposed independently of the paper loading table.